

ABSTRACT

Title of the Research: De La Salle University- Dasmaringas
**Students' Perception on Catholic
Spirituality**

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This is a descriptive survey research that aimed to analyze the perception of selected students of DLSU-D on Catholic spirituality and show its implications for the student formation programs of the Campus Ministry and Guidance and Counseling Offices of DLSU-D. The theoretical framework evolved around the concept of development theories of Piaget (1947), Erickson (1968), Kohlberg (1969), and Fowler(1981), with particular emphasis on their impact on the cognitive, psychosocial, moral, and spiritual growth of adolescents. With the emerging identity and faith of the adolescent comes the formation of the perception on reality in general and Catholic spirituality in particular. This perception would have implications for student formation programs, especially by the Campus Ministry and Guidance Counseling Offices of DLSU-D. About 600 third year students answered the two-part

questionnaire which included their demographic profile. To analyze and interpret the data gathered, the following statistical tools were used: frequency count and percentage; weighted mean; standard deviation; ranking, F-test (ANOVA); and t-test of significant difference.

The findings reveal that student respondents generally have a “moderately Strong Perception” on the four aspects of spirituality namely, formation, worship, fellowship and service. 42.5 percent consider their level of religiosity as “about average”; 60 percent assert that they have a “strong belief in God”; 49.8 percent says that they “pray everyday”; 66.5 percent strive to live as a “good human person”; and about 54.8 percent view God as a “loving Father”.

When grouped according to gender, females have a stronger perception on the formation aspect of spirituality. There is not much difference in the other aspects of spirituality. When grouped by religion, there is no significant difference as to how the respondents perceive formation, fellowship, and service as part of spirituality. Regarding worship, a significant difference is observed between Catholics and non-Catholics.

In comparing the respondents’ perception on the formation, worship, fellowship and service aspects of spirituality according to college, the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Education have low mean ratings whereas the College of Law Enforcement yielded high mean ratings. CLA

and COE are homogenous in their ratings; COS, CBA, CET and CIH are homogenous in having average mean ratings and CLE have high mean ratings for the four aspects of spirituality.

The results of this study provide many implications for the CMO to consider the students' perception on spirituality. Improved pastoral services such as spiritual direction and pastoral counseling need to be incorporated into the retreat and recollection modules so as to better accompany the students by coming up with more relevant and meaningful liturgical and worship celebrations. For the GCO, it is imperative that counselors see that intrinsic to the total development of individuals is the attention given to their spiritual life, not as a separate aspect but an integrating factor that unifies the adolescents' life as one. This study points out that as the CMO and GCO facilitate the students' development and growth in their capacity for adjustment and decision making, they may also be attentive to the spiritual needs of the students and assist them in realizing that spiritual life is potent in influencing their actions, choices, and values.

The study concludes that the respondents have a regard for spirituality as an important part in their life. Growth in cognition (formal operations), emotionality (affect-worship-devotion), relationality (establishing meaningful relations) and sense of responsibility (behavioral); and the spheres of influence such as the family, school,

community, and society mediate in the formation of the respondents' perception of how they view and value spirituality in their life.

This study recommends that the Campus Ministry and Guidance Counseling Offices of DLSU-D re-visit their programs and services, so that the students' perception and their needs for growth and development may be considered. This entails that both offices see spiritual life as not separated from the lived experience and unify the students' life by guiding them in their actions, behaviors and choices. This recommendation is also extended to the whole DLSU-D community and to the wider community of the Parish and society.

